



January 21, 2002

All: Renata Hesse
U.S. Department of Justice, Antitrust Division
601 D Street, N.W., Suite 1200
Washington, D.C. 20530

The opportunity to file comments on the Microsoft antitrust lawsuit is much appreciated with the importance it carries for the economy. We would like to offer our opinion for your consideration as you deliberate the proposed settlement of this case.

As the owners of a wholesale plumbing supply company, we understand that government has a role in protecting consumers and businesses from monopolistic behavior. Although we were never supportive of the case against Microsoft, we acknowledge the Court of Appeals findings. To this end, we believe that settlement is the best option for the economy and the high-tech industry.

The key point in our minds is that settlement not only ends the suit, but it does accomplish what the government set out to do: put a more watchful eye on Microsoft's business practices to ensure consumers are protected.

What we have read about the details of the suit and the settlement tells us that the settlement that is on the table is a good compromise that gives the government what it is seeking, Microsoft some of what it wants, and the economy what it desperately needs. We hope your deliberations bring you to the same conclusion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John & Bay Trimmek".

John and Bay Trimmek, Owners
B & J Wholesale Plumbing Supply
525 S. Kansas Avenue
Liberal, KS 67801